

THE
Wicked Husband;
AND
Unnatural Father:

Being a sad and deplorable Relation of one *William Gilbert*, a Farmer of *Toddington* near *Lynn* in *Norfolk*, who coming home Drunk late in the Evening, on *Tuesday* the 7th of *August*, did in a most barbarous and inhumane manner, Cut his own Wife's Throat from Ear to Ear (being big with Child) without any Provocation, and Murthered his young Daughter of 12 Years of Age, by beating out her Brains with a Hammer, because she beg'd for the Life of her Mother: With an Account of his Examination, Tryal, Condemnation at the last Assizes at *Normich*; With his Confession, and last Dying Speech at the Place of Execution, being Hang'd in Chains before his own Door, as a sad Warning to all Drunkards, and unkind Husbands whatsoever.

Licensed according to Order.

L O N D O N, Printed by *E. Bell*, near
Ludgate-Street, 1705.

Wicked Husband, and Unnatural Father.

AT a certain Village call'd *Toddington*, within three Miles of *Kings-Linn* in *Norfolk*, Liv'd one Mr. *William Gilbert*, an Eminent Farmer of that Town, who having a good Prospect of a Livelihood by his good Husbandry and Industry, Married the Daughter of one *William Crane* of a considerable Substance, for he gave with his said Daughter 500 *l.* in Money, besides a considerable stock of Cows and Sheep, to furnish another Farm that he hired upon the said Marriage; which by computation was as good as 300 *l.* more, which in those parts of the Kingdom is look'd upon to be a considerable Dowery, especially to a Farmer who had no settled Estate: But notwithstanding those profits and advantages with his said Wife, he in a little time became very Cross and Unkind to her, using her more like a Slave than a Wife, and from a Moderate and good Man he degenerated to a Drunken and Debauch'd Libertine, spending his Money and time on wicked and debauch'd Companions, Lewd Women and

and scandalous Strumpits; and this course of Life he followed for several Years together, till he had almost consumed his Substance, to the great Grief of his Wife and all her Relations; having by her but one only Child, a Daughter of 12 Years of Age, who was very Loving and Dutiful to her Parents, but more than ordinary respectful to her Father, who till of late seem'd to Love her intirely, but by keeping of evil Women company, he was plunged in all manner of Filthiness; Cursing and Swearing becoming so customary and habitual to him, that he could hardly speak a word without it, and in his Drunken Fits would beat and abuse his Wife and Child in a most barbarous and unmerciful manner, and would at the same time pretend a familiarity with the Devil, who he said had promised to do great things for him, and thereupon rejected all the good Counsel and Instructions that could be given him, by good and pious People; insomuch that on *Tuesday* the 7th of *August* last, coming home Drunk about 10 a Clock in the Night from his debauch'd and lewd Companions fell into a horrid fit of Swearing and Cursing in a most dreadful manner, for which his poor Wife, in a loving manner, desired him to forbear, and not to blaspheme the holy Name of God at such a rate; upon which, in a brutish and unnatural manner he dragg'd her at 11

her Chair by the Hair of her Head, beating and abusing her most dreadfully, and tho' she fell down on her Knees and begg'd with Crys and Tears (if not for her sake,) to have Compassion on the unborn Infant, being then big with Child, not having to go above six Weeks of her time: But all her crys and lamentations prov'd ineffectual, for such was his barbarous and Savage Cruelty, that having a sharp Knife in his Hand he Cut her Throat from Ear to Ear, and then stamp'd upon her tender Breast till she was quite Dead. During this horrid Tragedy, his young Daughter of 12 Years of Age stood crying and hanging on her wicked Father's Arm; saying, *Dear Father for God's Sake save my Mother's Life, and do not defile your Hands in the Blood of my tender Mother, who has been a loving Wife to you, and never gave you any just cause of Anger; therefore for Christ Jesus sake, dear Father have a care what you do, for God's Vengeance will certainly overtake you, if you offer such Violence to your own Flesh and Blood:* But his Anger was so far from being asswaged at the Child's witty and discreet Speeches, tho' Expressed with all the sweetness of Temper such a Child could be capable of, that he took it by the Arm, and flung it against the Wall in a wretched and unmerciful manner, calling her *Bastardly young Bitch,* and several other base and reproachful Names, telling

her, *she would be a Whore like her Mother,* threatening that he would serve her in the like Manner.

These wicked Speeches from an unkind Father put the Girl into a sad Trembling, and seeing her unfortunate Mother lye Dead on the Floor, she fell down on her Knees, and begg'd heartily of him, to pitty her tender Years, putting him in mind, of the sad Consequence that would suddenly follow the Death of her Mother; therefore earnestly desired him not to add one Sin to another, by taking away that innocent Life, which the Laws of God, Nature, and Religion bound him to Preserve, with many other remarkable and pious Sayings, enough to have mollified the hardest Heart in the World, except his own; but all was to no purpose, tho, he had broke the Knife that Cut her Mothers Throat, he soon found a fatal an Instrument, for he took a great Hammer that lay in the Chemney Corner, and with it in a cruel and unmerciful manner beat out the poor Child's Brains, and then was going to make his Escape; but God who never suffers such monstrous Wickedness to go Unpunished, even in this World, caused by a wonderful Providence, the Murthered Woman's own Brother and his Son to come that very Moment, with a design to give them a Visit from *Northamptonshire*; When seeing by

the Light of the Candle his Brother all Bloody, asked him what was the matter, who being in a trembling Condition with a guilty Conscience, could not make any Answer, till going into the House, he told him that his Wife had Killed her Child and then Cut her own Throat, while he was in the Back-field; but these excuses not being satisfactory; his Brother kept him in discourse till his Son called a Constable; who seized him for that Night, and the next Morning he was carried before Justice Upwood of Kings Linn, where he confessed all the particulars abovementioned; and was thereupon committed Prisoner to Norwich Goal, where he remained very Penitent shedding abundance of Tears for so loathsome a Tragedy, declaring that the Devil continually worked upon him till he had done it, which he wished he could repaire with his Blood.

At the last Assizes he was Try'd for these two unnatural Murthers, where he pleaded Guilty to both the Indictments, alledging that his Lustful Sins had brought upon him this heavy Judgments; relating all the particular circumstances of the said Murthers, declaring before his Sentence, that he desired to Die, not being fitting to Live any longer upon the face of the Earth.

After his Sentence, which was to be Hanged in Chains, he behaved himself very

forrrrwful and Penitent, having a Minister ordered to attend him daily, who faithfully gave him Ghostly Consolation, to prepare him for his approaching Death, which was four days after his Tryal, according to his own request. Being come to the place of Execution he again repeated his former Confession and prayed very earnestly for the forgiveness of his cruel and barbarous Sins, being mounted the Ladder he spoke thus to the People.

Friends and Neighbours, I am come to this place to suffer a shameful and ignominious Death, as a just reward for my barbarous wickedness, having stain'd my Hands in the Blood of the best of Wives, and dutifulest of Children, instigated thereunto by the craftiness of the Devil who continually infected my Mind with malice and cruelty, and inflamed my Body with beastly Lust, covetng carnal Knowledge with almost every Woman I saw, which produced such sad effects, that the more I enjoyed the more my Lustful Appetite was inflamed with desire, till such time as I perfectly loathed and abhorred the lawful Enjoyment of my own Wife: At which time the Enemy of Mankind closing in with those wicked Thoughts, never let me rest Night nor Day till I had Marthered my Wife and Child; for which my very Heart bleeds within me and tortures and wracks my very Soul with the Guilt of such loathsom Wickedness: There.

fore for the Lord sake let all Persons that hears me this Day take warning by my sad Fate, and let not lude and impudent Strumpets draw you Affections from your Lawful Spouses, least you fall into the same fatal Snares of misery and confusion. Had I lived Chast with my Vertuous and Lawful Wife, I had never been Guilty of the Sin of Murther, the worst of Crimes; so that consequently Lust and Drunkenness are certainly inlets into the worst of Villanies, as hath been too manifestly apparent by my wicked Life and shameful Death; Pray God give you Hearts to mend your Lives, that your Deaths may be Comfortable; which is the Prayer of your sorrowful Afflicted, and Dying Friend, Farewel.

Then having Pray'd by himself and with the Minister for a considerable time, he was turned beside the Ladder: and after he was Dead, hang'd in Chains before his own Door, as a Terror to all such wicked Murtherers.

FINIS.